

Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

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DEPT PASS USDA FOR FAS/FCA/ESCS/SCHOONOVER/US-USSR SECRETARIAT

E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: EAGR UR
SUBJECT: 1978 CROP SURVEY TRAVEL

1. FOLLOWING IS PLANNED, REPEAT PLANNED, SCHEDULE FOR 1978
BY AGATT OFFICE PERSONNEL.

A. APRIL 15-30: ENTIRE USUAL EUROPEAN USSR IN-TOURIST
ROUTE BY CAR (HEREINAFTER CALLED IN-TOURIST ROUTE).

B. JUNE 10-15: TRANS-SIBERIAN RR TRIP.

C. JUNE 20-JULY 5: INTOURIST ROUTE

D. JULY 15-30: CENTRAL VOLGA, URALS AND NEW LANDS. AIR
AND/OR RAIL WITH MAXIMUM POSSIBLE CAR TRAVEL AT INTER-
MEDIATE POINTS.

E. AUG 15-20: PARTIAL IN-TOURIST ROUTE (SUNFLOWERS,
SUGAR BEETS AND CORN).

F. AUG 20-28: CENTRAL ASIA (COTTON).

G. SEP 15-30: INTOURIST ROUTE.
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2. ACTUAL TRAVEL DATES WILL DEPEND ON WEQTHET AND OTHER
VARIABLES INCLUCING SOVIET TRAVEL NOTE REGISTRATIONS.

3. NOTE THAT EASTERN AREAS TRAVEL HAS BEEN SHIFTED CLOSER
TO HARVEST THIS YEAR. THIS TRAVEL DID NOT ON WHOLE PRO-
DUCE RELIABLE OUTTURN DATA LAST YEAR, DUE PARTLY TO ITS

GUIDED TOUR NATURE. WHILE SAME PROBLEM WILL PROBABLY REOCCUR THIS YEAR, WE CONTINUE TO CONSIDER THIS TRAVEL IMPORTANT. BASIC IDEA WILL BE TO SCHEDULE SUCH TRIPS TO AREAS MISSED BY SPRING GRAINS AND SORGHUM/CORN TEAMS AND/OR TO AREAS OF INDICATED CROP STRESS. WE MUST NOT BANK TOO HEAVILY ON THIS TRAVEL, IT MAY NOT BE ALLOWED BY SOVIETS.

4. TO ENSURE MAXIMUM PLANNING TIME FOR THESE TRIPS, WASHINGTON SHOULD SUBMIT PROPOSED ITINERARIES FOR GRAIN TEAMS TO SOVIETS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. SUGGEST ALSO THAT CLOSED AREAS BE INCLUDED, EVEN MAXIMIZED. IT IS EASIER FOR TEAMS TO ENTER CLOSED AREAS THAN AGATTS AS EMBASSY PERSONNEL. AT LEAST WITH WINTER AND SPRING GRAINS TEAMS, WASHINGTON MAY ALSO WANT TO CONSIDER DESIRABILITY OF STATING IN PROPOSAL THAT THIS SAME ITINERARY WILL BE FOLLOWED IN FUTURE.

5. WASHINGTON COMMENT ON THESE MATTERS WELCOMED, NOW OR LATER, INCLUDING SPECIFIC STRESS SITUATIONS AND/OR AREAS WHICH SHOULD BE CHECKED ON OR VISITED. MATLOCK

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